

Credo blades or similar razor blades are legal for use in Oregon to reduce calluses on your heel or anywhere else. The blades and any callus buffers must be cleaned and disinfected like other instruments.

Thorough washing and disinfecting of all tools should be performed after every use. Make sure the technician is washing the instrument in hot, soapy water (not just a rinse), and that disinfectant is applied to the working portions of implements. Soiled instruments must be stored separately from clean instruments in labeled receptacles. In addition, emery boards that are not approved for disinfection should be discarded after every use to prevent transmission of yeast or bacterial infections from one client's nails to the next.

Cleaning and disinfecting of work tables and other surfaces should occur after every manicure or pedicure.

Foot spas or footbath units should be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

You have the right to get clear answers to your questions about procedures, materials being used and their contents.

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

If you, the consumer, believe you may have been injured as the result of a nail service, you have the right to file a written complaint with the Health Licensing Office. Complaint forms can be downloaded from the agency's website, www.hlo.state.or.us.

That complaint will be processed by enforcement staff followed by a possible investigation by an enforcement officer. License holders could face civil fines or potential license sanctions imposed by the Oregon Board of Cosmetology if found to be in violation of state standards.

If you have questions about enforcement of state regulations, please contact the Health Licensing Office Enforcement Section at 503-378-8667 extension 4310 or by e-mail to hlo.info@state.or.us

Publication HLO-43 (Rev 11/2001)

Health Licensing Office
Susan K. Wilson, Director

700 Summer Street NE Suite 320
Salem, Oregon 97301-1287

503-378-8667
503-585-9114 fax
503-373-2114 TTY-Voice

Email: hlo.info@state.or.us
Web: www.hlo.state.or.us

Oregon Health Licensing Office



WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A NAIL SALON

Consumer Information

The Oregon Health Licensing Office and the Oregon Board of Cosmetology set high professional safety standards to ensure that Oregon's consumers are protected from disease transmission when they enter a state-licensed nail or cosmetology facility. Facilities are inspected annually to ensure compliance with state regulations for safety.

In addition to state officers enforcing standards, Consumers should be aware of what to look for in a salon that makes customer safety a high priority.

PRICE VS. SAFETY

If you are seeking out a particular salon based on a very low price, or a much lower price compared to other salons, buyer beware. Professional cosmetologists need to charge a rate that reflects their cost of doing business, which includes necessary supplies, disposable tools and sanitation equipment. A quick product survey by the Health Licensing Office indicates that at low-end minimum, a nail technician uses at least **\$2.00** worth of disposable products on a single client during one session, based on June 2001 market prices.

Use common sense: If you are paying not much more than that product consumption figure for a nail service, chances are that shortcuts are being taken, and products intended for disposal following use on a client could be re-used.

Demand that the technician use a clean instrument if there is any question in your mind about if the instrument is used or unclean.

LICENSES

All nail services must be performed in a state-licensed facility with state-licensed practitioners. Each facility must post its license issued by the Health Licensing Office in public view.

Each operator must also post his or her license. That license must be an original or certified duplicate and not a photocopy. A state-licensed practitioner will have completed 600 hours of training in Nail Technology prior to becoming licensed. Unlicensed activity is against Oregon regulations and should be reported to the Health Licensing Office.

If you do not see a license posted, walk out of the salon

AT THE WORKSTATION

Look for a clean work area. The salon and workstations should be clean and free of debris and dirt. Instruments that can be disinfected and files should be washed and disinfected after each use and a new set of unused disposable files should be used on each client. Disposable tools belong in the garbage can.

Look for a smoke-free environment with adequate ventilation. Many nail-care products are highly flammable, so smoking even by clients should not be permitted. An overwhelming smell of nail polish or polish remover, incidentally, signals inadequate ventilation and an increased fire hazard. There should be adequate ventilation to remove fumes caused by nail products.

Look for an organized work area. Clean towels and a container of Environmental Protection Agency-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant (for storing metal tools) should be on every nail technician's table. Containers should be clearly marked with the contents.

SERVICE

Manicurists should wash their hands with soap before touching a client's hands

Instruments and supplies that cannot be disinfected, such as orange sticks and the sponges placed between the toes, should be thrown away immediately after use.

The use of drills on the cuticles is legal, but cutting the skin is not. Manicures and pedicures should not be painful or leave your cuticles bloody and swollen. Drill bits should be cleaned after each client.